GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:986
ANSWERED ON:01.03.2000
DECLINE IN PRODUCTION OF FOODGRAINS
MANJAY LAL

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned `Anaj Utpadan Main Bhari Girawat Ki Ashanka` appearing in the daily `Dainik Jagaran` dated February 4, 2000;

(b) the facts of the matter reported therein;

(c) the reasons for the inordinate decline in production of foodgrains; and

(d) the corrective steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

(SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO)

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b) & (c): The statistics reported in the news items are based on the advance estimates released by the Central Statistical Organisation. These in turn, were based on the assessment of crop condition made sometimes in January, 2000. Prolonged dry spell in several parts of the country adversely affected crop condition in several states. However, good rainfall since mid January, 2000 in the country has improved prospects of foodgrains. As per latest assessment, if agro-climatic conditions remain favourable, there is not expected to be any inordinate decline in production of foodgrains during the year 1999- 2000.

(d): Review of production is a continuous process. To increase production and productivity of foodgrains in the country, the Government is implementing centrally sponsored Integrated Cereal Development Programmes in Rice/Wheat/Coarse Cereals Based Cropping System Area, National Pulses Development Project etc.Under these programmes/project, incentives are provided to farmers for use of high yielding varieties of seeds, application of integrated pest management, propagation of scientific water management including micro irrigation and use of improved farm implements. Research is also being continuously undertaken to develop improved technologies so as to enhance the productivity and production of foodgrains in India. Field demonstrations on farmers` holdings including training of farmers and farm labourers is being organised for effeftive transfer of technology.